

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 7-11 are added. Claims 4-6 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Stevens (U.S. Patent No. 4,371,410). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Stevens teaches a method of applying and stitching a tape, such as a strip of rubber, onto a body. The tape is supplied to an applicator roller in contact with the body as the body moves. The tape is stitched to the body by passing stitching rollers over the tape in contact with the body. Rotation of the body is stopped upon completion of the buildup of the layer of tape on the body. The applicator roller is retracted from the body while, substantially simultaneously, a brake is applied to the applicator roller to stop advancing the tape to the body. The body that is in still contact with the stitching rollers to the stretch tape between the braked applicator roller and the stitching rollers is moved until the tape breaks somewhere between the applicator roller and the stitching rollers.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for wrapping a rubber strip around a forming drum and includes the steps of: continuously extruding an unvulcanized rubber strip from an injection device; pressing the rubber strip by a guide roll against the forming drum under tension with a pressed portion of the rubber strip and an extrusion outlet of the injection device disposed apart from one another at a length defining a space therebetween; rotating the forming drum in synchronism with extrusion of the rubber strip so that the guide roll is driven; and, wrapping the rubber strip guided by the guide roll around the forming drum while extruding the unvulcanized rubber strip.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach the steps of continuously extruding an unvulcanized rubber strip from an injection device and wrapping the rubber strip around the forming drum while extruding the unvulcanized rubber strip. Further, the applied art fails to teach the step of rotating the

forming drum in synchronism with extrusion of the rubber strip so that a guide roll is driven. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Satoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,059,268). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Satoh teaches a method for applying tire material to a drum in a tire building process. A cut leading end of a ply adheres onto the building drum by a leading-end applying and pressure-adhering roller. The building drum is cause to rotate at an angle less than one rotation and thereafter the ply is cut by a cutter mechanism. The building drum is further rotated to join the cut trailing end of the ply with the cut leading end while the roller is pressure-adhering the cut trailing end of the ply against the building drum.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Also, newly-added claims 7-11 also include features not shown in the applied art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Appendix I (Marked-up Version of Amended Claims) 

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